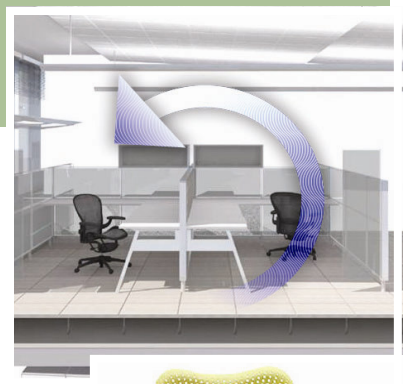
Indoor Environments

1595 Wynkoop Street



EPA's Denver headquarters HVAC system, moisture control, lighting, ergonomics, low-toxicity product selection and noise-reduction all contribute to a high quality indoor environment for occupants and visitors.

Features

- Air-side economizer. Provides outside air to occupied spaces when outdoor temperatures are below 75°F.
- Underfloor Air Delivery System. Adjustable swirl diffusers in workstations provide efficient air delivery and occupant control of airflow.
- Air Filtration. High removal-efficiency filters (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value of 13) used in ventilation system.
- Low-emitting and low toxicity materials. Product selection for structural and framing materials, walls, carpets, paints, sealants, adhesives, furniture and workstation components specified materials that contained the lowest toxicity materials and lowest potential emissions of volatile organic compounds.

- Construction Indoor Environmental Quality. Comprehensive plan protected ductwork and air-handling components during construction; dust and vapor generating processes were completed prior to the introduction of absorbing materials. A 2-week building flush out, air sampling, and change out of all air filters followed construction phase.
- Noise control. Workstations and ceiling construction incorporated sound absorbing materials, privacy panels, and a state-of-the-art sound-masking system to minimize noise distractions.
- Ergonomics. Workstation design incorporated the use of user adjustable work-surfaces, adjustable flat panel monitor arms, and a selection of fully adjustable ergonomic chairs to allow employees to adjust their workstation for maximum comfort and health.
- Green cleaning and custodial products. Post-Construction requirements included the use of a Green Housekeeping Program and an Integrated Pest Management Program to avoid the use of potentially toxic materials in the building.

Expected Outcomes

- Good Indoor Environmental Quality to help ensure a healthy workplace for employees
- Reduced sick days, greater employee-satisfaction, comfort and productivity

What You Can Do

Indoor pollution sources that release gases or particles are the primary cause of indoor air quality problems in homes. Pay particular attention to heating and cooking sources, tobacco use, building materials and finishes, carpets, insulation, cleaning products, and outdoor sources such as radon and pesticides. Inadequate ventilation can increase indoor pollutant levels and high temperature and humidity levels can also increase concentrations of some pollutants. Mold is a particular concern associated with moisture. In some cases, investing in one of many air cleaning systems and products available on the market is a good choice. Also look for low toxic alternatives to traditional cleaning products.

For More Information

www.epa.gov/iaq/largebldgs/baq_page.htm
www.epa.gov/iaq/
www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/iaq.html
www.greenseal.org/
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